

**Ross Dowson archives – correspondence – Year 1978**

***Documents: Bold italics***

- 01\_10        *(Handwritten letter)* to Letha Melvin, Fredericton NB, offering an exchange with the *UNB Brunswickan*
- 01\_16        *(Handwritten note)* re: mysterious phone call from an acquaintance re a large shipment of Marxist literature stranded on the docks
- 01\_18        ***Document: ‘‘Submission by Ross Dowson to the MacDonald Commission of Inquiry;’’*** (RCMP official) Mr. R.M. McLeod to testify; a statement from Hon. Roy McMurtry, Attorney-General for Ontario that the RCMP **did** investigate the NDP,” etc., etc.
- 01\_18B       ***Document: ‘‘Submission to the MacDonald Commission of Inquiry concerning certain activities of the RCMP, by Ross Dowson;’’*** calling for public hearings; RCMP violating laws yet terms of this Inquiry means it will **not** accept citizens’ views or questions...
- 01\_24        Letter to Comrade Panitch (York U. prof.), re: enclosed copy of RD’s review of Penner’s book
- 01\_25        *(Handwritten note)* re: record of phone call from NDP official refusing a Forward bookstore literature table
- 01\_30        Flyer reprinting interview with RD from *Forward*, Jan. 1978, re: the slander action launched against the RCMP
- 02\_03        Letter to Cy Gonick (editorial board, *CD*), re: enclosing RD’s review of Norman Penner’s new book
- 02\_06        +Toronto Branch meeting (minutes): membership issues; suit against the RCMP, proposal to change name to Forward Group
- 02\_09        Letter to Kevin Mann, Bathurst NB, re: exchange of papers; notes on the left and the election of Cassidy at NDP convention
- 02\_15        *(Handwritten notes)* “Progress Report on suit against RCMP; notes on Quebec civil liberties organizations
- 02\_00        Found in February, ***Document: ‘‘Statement of the Forward Group: Where we stand’’*** (*Dowson tendency successor to the Socialist League –ed.*)
- 03\_04        *(Handwritten letter)* to Dan Heap seeking endorsonation for RCMP suit

- 03\_20 Letter to Dave (P?), re: thank your for the donation; a massive student mobilization against the cutbacks; support building for case
- 04\_07 ***Press Release: the growing list of civil rights supporters of Dowson's slander suit against the RCMP;*** the signed statement
- 04\_10 Memo: "Report on Canadian Civil Liberties Assoc. meeting, Toronto," RCMP Commissioner Kelly present declares CP and Trotskyists as 'subversive,' RD speaks on case against RCMP
- 05\_10 Letter to Arthur Hughes, Political Rights Defense Fund, New York, re: US C.I.A. regards RCMP as a "friendly foreign intelligence service;" seeking more evidence of this type
- 05\_10B Letter to H. Kostiuk, MacDonald Commission of Enquiry, Ottawa, re: enclosing a report of a break-in at the LSA HQ in 1971
- 05\_29 Letter to H. Kostiuk, re: sending the report mentioned May 10 but delayed; theft of membership lists not mentioned, our garbage picked up by persons identified as the police
- 06\_05 Lettre/Avis du S.R.D.F.et "Déclaration des Objectifs du Comité de défense des droits des socialistes"
- 07\_21 *(Handwritten letter)* of welcome to the *Prairie Star*, Edmonton, offering an exchange
- 07\_23 Memo to F.G. members re: next meeting, activities and news
- 07\_31 ***Document: "Open Letter to the Ward 6 Meeting,"*** re: the question of NDPers running on the party label; beware of endorsing non-NDPers; signed RD, V-P Rosedale NDP
- 07\_98 Flyer, "Should Ward 6 NDP run only one or should it run two candidates in the coming aldermanic contest?" Running two will give direction to the NDP and avoid opportunistic maneuvering (Jack Layton mentioned as 'a closet NDPer')
- 07\_99 Two resolutions (attached to Ward 6 NDP flyer), re: Resolved that the parliamentary caucus cease supporting the Tories; a Resolution re: resolved the ONDP call upon the A-G McMurtry to prosecute those RCMP officers who broke the law in the Dowson case
- 08\_04 ***Document: Press Release from Socialist Rights Defence Fund,*** re: the Dowson slander action against the RCMP will hear testimony from the federal Deputy Minister of Justice; international civil rights support for the committee; list of Canadian supporters *(see text file of letter pp.2 & 3)*

- 09\_30        *(Newspaper clipping)* “Notice of Hearings” across Canada of the McDonald Commission concerning certain activities of the RCMP
- 10\_23        Letter to the Editor, Toronto Star: (2 of 4 paragraphs cut), re: Ward’s Island residents are occupying what should be a public park
- 11\_24        *(Handwritten notes)* re: CIA connection with RCMP
- 11\_27        ***Document: Ross Dowson’s court statement ‘Reply and joinder of issue to the Fresh Statement of Defence of her Majesty the Queen;’ re:*** the RCMP has carried on electronic surveillance, mail openings and acts of infiltration, continuing to the present, knowingly published falsifications and acted in an oppressive manner in committing slander
- 11\_30        *(Handwritten notes)* re: instructions to Harry (Kopyto) re case
- 12\_99        *(Handwritten notes)* re: Building list of documents to be available to Investigation (McDonald Commission)



Jan 10/78

Hetta B Melvin  
156 Main St  
Frederickton, NB

Dear friend:

I received your 25 cents for the pamphlet we sent to UNB Brunswickian. That was unusual and a pleasure — a real gesture of appreciation.

And a few days ago we received the review that appeared in the paper. That was even more pleasurable. All of us at Forward like this very much because we share the reviewer's opinion of the pamphlet.

Perhaps you did not notice that the material first appeared in Forward newspaper. I am sending along a copy of the last issue. We are now going to press with a new one. We would very much like to hear your opinion of our paper which will give you a much broader picture of our ideas. And of course if there is material there that you think would be useful to the UNB Brunswickian by all means make us of it.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

Doss Dawson

In our next issue there will be a report on the significant case we have decided to carry against the RCMP for slander and defamation.



Wenget Jan 16/78

R.D. got a phone call at 40 Homewood from Vince urging me to get a truck so that I could pick up a large shipment of Marx Engels Lenin books that were down at the Toronto docks and were about to be thrown away. He appeared to be speaking from a pool hall with a person whom he knew who told him about these books. He also appeared to be under the influence of —. I could not get any information from him about the books — where they came from, who they were assigned to, ~~where they were~~ where they actually were — in the postal system or the customs sheds and why they were unclaimed. I told him they don't throw them away but periodically hold an unclaimed goods sale — that they belonged to someone and if they forfeited this — they then belonged to the govt. I told him to come over to the store on Tuesday Jan 17 and we would talk the matter over.

## **Submission by Ross Dowson to the MacDonald Commission of Inquiry on January 9, 1978.**

Dowson subsequently made a second submission which he presented to the public hearing held in Toronto on January 18, 1978.

We would respectfully request that the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the RCMP, call to its Toronto Sessions Mr. R.M. McLeod, acting assistant deputy Attorney-General of Ontario and RCMP officials with whom he met whose statements served as a basis for a summary of RCMP activities in response to questions raised by the leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, on November 1, 1977.

We are submitting for the Commission's information a statement by the Honourable Roy McMurtry, Attorney-General for Ontario, which he made to the Ontario Legislature and released as information to the public on December 9, 1977. The RCMP officials are unnamed, however, the Ontario Attorney-General's office could readily supply them.

We would like the Royal Commission as part of its inquiry to conduct an investigation based on this statement along the following lines, which we understand is within its authority and is indeed in our opinion its obligation to the citizens of Canada:

This statement admits that the RCMP did investigate the New Democratic Party during the period of 1971 to 1973. While Solicitor General The Honourable F. Fox states the RCMP did not conduct "an investigation into the activities of the NDP as such" it investigated the activities of certain members of the Waffle who were members of the NDP at that time and freely associated together in a caucus — a perfectly normal phenomenon in all parties claiming to be democratic.

The RCMP justifies its investigation of the NDP and the Waffle — on the grounds of the latter organization's alleged invitation to persons who it defines as "subversive elements" joining the NDP — persons whom the Solicitor General of Canada The Honourable Francis Fox alleges "would tend to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means." These persons are further defined as ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of the Canadian Trotskyist movements, specifically the leaders of the League for Socialist Action (Trotskyists) who are alleged to have "in fact directed their members to join the Waffle Group".

This summary poses a whole series of questions of vital concern to all Canadians which must in the interest of civil rights be brought to the fore.

Who determined that adherents of the LSA, and ex-communists, are a threat to national security or are promoters of changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means? On what grounds was this determination made? On what evidence was this determination made? Was this evidence obtained by legal or illegal means? To whom was this information conveyed and for what purposes? What use, if any, was made of this information? The Waffle had publications presenting its views which were widely circulated, and had elected officials. What was the evidence of subversion? What acts were committed by individuals under the name of the LSA or previous names which are alleged to be subversive? The Trotskyists have a considerable history,

a widely circulated public press and a range of public activities including participation in elections, holding public forums of discussion, etc. What evidence was there that the LSA was subversive or the persons who identified themselves with it were, and are, subversive?

The statement says with the end of the Waffle in the NDP that: “The RCMP concern with these individuals was not reduced.” Are these persons (either in the NDP or outside of it) still considered subversives? Are they still under surveillance, investigation, and if so, on what grounds and on whose orders?

For Canadians concerned with their civil liberties, this is not a small matter. For the RCMP to designate an organization or individuals as subversive can have wide repercussions on their personal lives, their relations with others — their family, their friends, their associations, acquaintances and their employers — in fact, it can be the central fact in the determination of their whole life.

With no other evidence one is almost compelled to conclude that it is their ideas that are alleged to be subversive — the ideas that they have in common — Socialist ideas. A serious probe would determine if in actual fact socialism or communism as an ideology are illegal in the eyes of those who administer and are responsible for the RCMP — if in fact the RCMP and those responsible for it are treating dissenters with such ideas as self admitted subversives.

The failure of the RCMP to confront those alleged to be subversive with that charge and thereby enable them to defend themselves is a violation of their elementary democratic rights, particularly when these authorities have such power at their disposal with other hearings have shown they have used in the most flagrant violations of the law. What actions can such organizations and persons feel were taken against them behind their backs and what actions may be taken against them in the future?

How was it and who determined on the basis of these allegations that the NDP should become the arena of the investigations of groups which have their own legal existence? Would not this only serve to compromise the New Democratic Party in the eyes of uninformed opinion? In the course of its investigation of the Waffle, the ex-communists and Trotskyists alleged to have been invited, no less, into the NDP (which is a legal party), how can it be said that the RCMP was not in fact also investigating the NDP “as such.” On what grounds and under whose authority did the RCMP decide who would be designated as legitimate members of the New Democratic Party as opposed to those members who joined “through the Waffle in order to gain more respectability.” In the course of its investigations, the RCMP must have had cause to accumulate information on a great many NDPers who identified themselves with the Waffle, including such persons as Mr. David Barrett, who later became Premier of British Columbia. What became of this evidence, and is there not a distinct possibility that even that type of evidence could be used to serve political purposes by those who are made privy to it at a future time? Are other political parties subject to investigation by the RCMP, such as the Liberal Party, which was joined by Hazen Argue (who had headed an earlier Waffle-type caucus at the founding convention of the NDP), a party which many bigots claim even today to be headed by a communist subversive?

It should be clear that all the evidence that served to permit heads of government such as Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Solicitor General Francis Fox to characterize persons as subversive must be made available to those persons in order that they might have an opportunity to respond to such allegations. To permit any other course of action would lay part of the essential underpinning of a totalitarian police state.

an investigation today based on this statement along lines that I outlined for their consideration.



**Submission to the McDonald Commission of Inquiry concerning certain activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police — by Ross Dowson — at sessions held in the Federal Court of Canada in Toronto, January 18, 1978.**

Some two weeks ago, on the official deadline, I submitted a written brief to the Ottawa offices of this Commission. At the time of preparing my submission, from reports that had earlier appeared in the Toronto daily press, I had concluded that the public hearings would make it possible, if they were not actually designed to do so, to deal with the key civil liberties issues that have been brought to the fore in the revelations concerning RCMP illegal activities. I thought that the Commission would hear briefs from victimized individuals and organizations which would seem only appropriate to a Commission that is called A Commission of Inquiry Concerning Activities of the RCMP.

Over the past several months the citizens of this country have been witness to RCMP and government officials dealing out, reluctantly, one at a time, bits of information that have affirmed that the RCMP has been violating laws which they are formally committed to uphold and enforce, involving arson, theft of dynamite, purloining of membership lists of a major political party now in government office, and an illegal break-in of a Quebec news-service with the purpose of rendering a civil rights organization inoperative and accumulating stolen material with the intention of planting it in order to cause factional strife in the socialist movement. The most recent is the revelation that RCMPers themselves with the full knowledge and sanction of top RCMP officials, actually issued in the name of the FLQ a call to armed insurrection against the government, which included a denunciation of a prominent FLQ supporter who urged the rejection of terrorism as a method of struggle. At the time of the revelation of this incredible act, which officials assured us was the final one known to them, we're told that there was yet another one, committed elsewhere than Quebec, the details of which could not be released for so-called reasons of national security.

It was in these circumstances that I clearly understood from statements made by Superintendent McKendry that complaints from the public would be heard and investigated by the Commission. I understood that the citizens of this country, particularly those who have been or consider themselves to have been victims of the RCMP's violations of the law would be heard, questioned, and their complaints investigated.

It was on this understanding that my brief requested the Commission to call to these sessions Mr. R.M. McLeod, acting assistant deputy Attorney-General of Ontario, and RCMP officials with whom he met, whose statements served as a basis for a summary of RCMP activities in response to questions raised by the leader of the Ontario NDP as to RCMP investigations of his party on November 1, 1977. I submitted for the Commission's information a statement by the Honourable Roy McMurtry, Attorney-General for Ontario, which he made to the Ontario Legislature and released as information to the public on December 9, 1977 — and suggested that the names of the RCMP Officials involved could be obtained from the Attorney-General's office. I urged the Commission as part of its inquiries to conduct.

However, in consideration that the Commission might well seek to enforce the rules that it announced on the very eve of this hearing I will reluctantly leave the substance of my written submission aside hopefully for some future hearing that might permit the public to fully participate in inquiries into RCMP activities.

I will now present a short verbal brief “as to laws, policies and procedures which should govern the RCMP in its operations generally.” While astonishingly cynical statements have been made by the Prime Minister about making the laws fit the RCMP’s misdeeds I would suggest that the first principle in this respect, the simple and obvious one is that the RCMP should operate within the laws as they now stand and which it has honoured mostly in the breach. RCMP officers who have committed illegal acts and top officials who have ordered them to do so, or who have in any way condoned such acts, should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law and their victims should be as fully compensated as possible.

Even those who with every fibre in their body oppose certain laws as unjust, as upholding narrow interests of a tiny ruling class, impeding social progress, are compelled to work within the framework of the law until such time as they can convince the majority of the need to implement changes that would quite logically be reflected in law. The recent revelations of RCMP illegalities far from showing cause for special privileges or exemptions only confirm the need to enforce the law with regards to the RCMP and above all its Security Service.

Security, national security, has been invoked innumerable times in the course of the investigations of RCMP illegalities both by RCMP officials themselves and leading government figures including the members of this Commission. It is becoming increasingly clear, if there was ever any doubt, that this invocation has nothing at all to do with any clear or present danger to the welfare of the people who reside within the borders of Canada. Rather it is only a miserable subterfuge designed to block any serious investigations of the RCMP and to cover up its illegalities.

As has been pointed out by others, if such invocations of national security had not been pushed aside by the courts of the United States, Mr. Nixon would still be president, with Ehrlichman, Haldeman and Colson in their positions of power and influence. A turning point in Watergate legal history came when Egil Krogh abandoned the defence of national security justification and pleaded guilty. On January 24, 1974, he told the court the words “national security served to block critical analysis” in his own mind. “Yet what is national security?” he asked. “The discrediting of Dr. Elsberg which today strikes me as repulsive and an inconceivable national security goal, at the time would have appeared a means of blocking the possibility that he would encourage others possessed of classified information.... The invocation of national security stopped me from asking the question ‘Is this the right thing to do?’”

Recent evidence before other hearings of this Commission show how this rot has seeped into and come to dominate the thinking and actions of the RCMP hierarchy and even top officials of the government who call themselves democrats.

Chief Superintendent Donald Cobb, conceding the illegal character of a whole series of RCMP operations explained them in the following words: “We were used to living with certain illegalities. They were so commonplace they were no longer thought of as illegal. We no longer see them as illegal but as fundamental.” Operating on what he calls a “universal fact” that force was sometimes necessary, he justified among other things psychological terror and physical assault in violation of the law, with the words, “what we have done is relatively banal, compared to what has been done by other intelligence services” — taking as his point of reference a situation bearing no similarity to the situation in Canada, but one where the rules of war, even civil war apply, in Vietnam, the Middle East and Ireland.

During the brutal aggression against and the slaughter of the Vietnamese people a U.S. general explained his bombing of hundreds of civilian allies — that it was necessary to kill them to save them from Communism. Mr. Cobb justified the RCMP’s illegalities before this Commission with the following words, so strongly reminiscent of the above: “We feel obliged either to betray one’s duty to protect the public, or break the law.”

The simple fact of the matter is that the RCMP hierarchy has consistently geared its forces, and its forces have been conducting themselves on the basis that dissident views and those who express them, are subversive and illegal — and, particularly since the turn of the century, with the growth of the modern labor movement in this country, that socialist or Communist views are subversive and their organizations illegal, and that trade unions and their political party, the NDP, if not in the same boat, are only in a slightly slower boat behind, headed to the same destination, and it is necessary and justifiable to interfere with them in order to frustrate and block this alleged proclivity.

Some insight on the problem posed by the RCMP and its illegalities was given in passing by Solicitor General Francis Fox. “Going through the files,” he said, “it is very clear that these operations, break-ins, mail openings, have been going on from almost time immemorial within the force.”

The problem of the RCMP is rooted in its historic origins and essential structure. Reflecting its origins as a para-military cavalry force mobilized over 100 years ago to end communal

ownership of the prairie lands, to crush Indian-Métis resistance to the encroachments of the railway interests and white settlement, to open up the West to capitalist development, the RCMP remains to this day, not a civilian, but essentially a military force. The RCMP hierarchy has been and continues to be drawn almost without exception from the top brass of the Canadian armed forces. These officers over the years have marked themselves out as thorough going and vicious reactionaries. So crude, so blatantly anti-labor and pro-capitalist are their views that in 1963, Ottawa felt compelled to issue a directive ordering the force to stop making political statements.

Even the revelations that have so far come to light show that the RCMP with its strong bias against the labor and socialist movement is in many respects a political police force directed against the labor and socialist movement.

Over and above the various legal cases that the Native movements have fought against the racist conduct of the RCMP, the statistics on racial composition of the persons who jam the jails in the West show that the RCMP enforces the law with a strong racist bias — against the Indians and the Métis. So discredited has the RCMP become in Western Native communities that three years ago the Canadian Civil Liberties Association urged the establishment of a new agency independent of the RCMP and government, to investigate citizens' complaints.

Besides urging that the law be enforced with regards to the illegalities of the RCMP, this Commission should urge the launching of a massive corrective educational campaign directed not only to the RCMP but to the public at large, many sections of which are confused by decades of red-baiting, both official and unofficial. This campaign would make it clear that dissent is not only legal but that it is a completely healthy development, if society is to evolve and be reshaped to meet the ever changing needs and aspirations of its citizens — that ideas such as socialism and communism are not subversive and that organization by socialists to explain and promote their ideas, indeed to win the majority to implement them, is in no way illegal.

The Edmonton Journal recently expressed commiseration for this Commission faced with an apparently unending process of new revelations of RCMP illegalities. It suggested that the MacDonald Commission “must already be feeling like Hercules facing the Hydra” — the mythical beast that, as one of its many heads was cut off, brought forth a new and even more terrifying one. This was one of the Labors of Hercules.

I would further the analogy for the Commission to take into consideration in its recommendations by bringing to its attention another of the Labors of Hercules — the cleaning of the Augean stables. Augeus had a herd of 3,000 oxen whose stables had not been cleaned out for some 30 years. In assaying the magnitude of the problem before him Hercules concluded that



the situation demanded a truly revolutionary action. Casting all previous conceptions aside he swung the rivers Alpheus and Peneus through the stables and thereby cleaned them within the time allotted to him.

Instead of searching out and weighing various suggested laws, policies, and procedures to govern the RCMP so that its operation, including its Security Service, does not violate the basic democratic rights of the majority of the Canadian people, this Commission should, in my opinion, see this whole matter within the general framework of the crisis that is now confronting the Canadian people and Canadian Confederation itself.

The generalized recession of the world capitalist economy and its pressures on the U.S. corporations that dominate the Canadian economy to cutback on their Canadian peripheral operations, further deepening unemployment here, the moves of the Quebec nation which appear certain to result in the establishment of a sovereignty- association relation with the rest of Canada, the land claims and demands of the Native peoples, and the rising discontent over disparities in the various regions of the country, are challenging the very structure of Confederation itself.

The problem posed to this Commission can only be grasped in the total problem that now confronts Canada. It requires not patchwork or band-aid solutions but a Herculean response. With regards to the RCMP — in my opinion, the Commission should propose that a process be got underway that will result in its actual abolition.

With what shall it be replaced?

I am one of those, a growing number I hope, who believe that the only way to come to grips with the overriding crisis of Confederation is to move boldly and fearlessly towards the preparation for a new constitution for Canada. Among the questions before a popular assembly charged with drafting a new constitution would be the question of the laws that would govern this new Canada and the nature of the forces appropriate to interpret and apply them.

At this juncture and under these circumstances I could only at best make a few tentative suggestions as to how and what laws would be taken over, what would be dropped and added, and what type of body would be necessary to see that they are enforced. One thing would be very clear — it would not be a quasi-military operation, dominated by an authoritarian-minded hierarchy, directed against the labor and socialist movements. It would be a profoundly democratic institution not removed from day to day contact with the people and alienated by

rules and regulations designed to serve that purpose, but one in constant touch with the working people and organs of popular administration of this new society.

Probably this Commission will consider that it is not prepared to make any contribution whatsoever to this process. However, its minimum responsibility to the people of Canada is to open its hearings to the entire truth about the machinations of the RCMP. And whatever else it should recommend, that interventions in the internal affairs of the labor and socialist movement should cease forthwith.

*(handwritten letter found in 1978)*

(Jan 24/78 ?)

Dear Comrade Panitch

Following the very successful meeting, held here for Penner to comment on the various responses to his book he phoned me and in passing said you are reviewing it for Canadian Dimension.

I am enclosing a copy of my review which you may find to be of value – see p.4

My impression is that you do not receive our paper – we would be very happy to exchange it for anything that you and (your) associates publish.

Sincerely  
R. Dowson



NDP

On Jan 25/78 upon a phone  
call from me Steve Thomas  
in charge of the display space  
~~said to be free available~~  
at this convention sent me an  
application <sup>form</sup>. I filed it  
it was received ~~and~~ a few days later  
~~phone call~~ on Monday or Tuesday  
from Mr Thomas <sup>called me</sup> with regards to it  
in ~~informing~~ me that with  
regret there was no space available  
for Forward Books

The reason he gave was that the  
Woodsworth Foundation along with  
the Cdn Periodical Publishers Association  
had been allocated space & it was  
felt that Forward Bk ~~wasn't felt to~~  
~~would tend to~~ duplicate this material. When I pointed  
out Forward carried a ~~wide~~ assorted stock  
of books particularly oriented to NDP & socialist  
he remained firm and stated that Forward  
was not being allocated space

I went down to protest Sat Feb 4  
met him - Steve Thomas uneasy - now suggested there  
was also no space ~~at the~~ there was lots there when I went  
~~there~~ x I ~~asked~~ about censorship of Louis Riel - Ray took down a  
box to show - he approved - didn't take it up -



# sues RCMP for slander

A slander action against the RCMP was launched on December 15, 1977 in the midst of the accumulating revelations of the RCMP's violation of the laws involving arson, theft of dynamite, an elaborately planned seizure and copying of the Parti Québécois membership list, illegal break-in into a Quebec news service with the purpose of rendering a civil rights organization inoperative and in order to obtain material to implement its now admittedly widespread efforts to cause factional strife in the socialist movement right across the country.

The suit has been launched in the Federal Court of Canada by Ross Dowson, longtime socialist activist who was executive secretary of, and thereafter chairman of, the League for Socialist Action from the time of

its founding in 1961 until 1974 and a leading figure in the Canadian Trotskyist movement since the 1940's.

There are a number of significant aspects to this court action which provides it with a unique opportunity of becoming a focal point for opposition to the illegal and undemocratic repression of radical and socialist views being daily perpetrated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police today and extending back since the turn of the century.

In the following interview, Dowson explains the nature of the action which he has launched and the important political implications of it. The interview was conducted on the 30th day of January, 1978, by Forward.

Q. Would you please give us some background as to how this suit arose?

A. On November 1, 1977, Stephen Lewis, then leader of the New Democratic Party, asked Roy McMurtry, Attorney-General of Ontario, in the Legislature whether the New Democratic Party was under surveillance or subject to investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Mr. McMurtry filed a report in the Ontario Legislature on December 9, 1977 containing a summary of information provided to Mr. R. M. McLeod, acting assistant Deputy Attorney-General of Ontario, who met with RCMP officials in order to obtain the information necessary to respond to Mr. Lewis' inquiries. The statement released by Mr. McMurtry indicated that the RCMP did investigate the New Democratic Party during the period 1971 to 1973. The statement, in summary form, justified RCMP investigation of the NDP and the Waffle on the grounds of the latter organization's alleged invitation to persons, who the RCMP defines as subversive elements, to join the NDP. These persons are further defined as ex-members of the Communist Party of Canada and members of the Canadian Trotskyist movement, specifically mentioning the League for Socialist Action. This organization represented Trotskyism throughout the sixties and I was a leading member of it until 1974.

The statement slanders the League for Socialist Action by referring to the organization as being subversive and by implying that the League for Socialist Action tended "to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means and thereby attract the attention of the RCMP in the interest of national security."

The statement states that the leaders of the League for Socialist Action in fact directed their members to join the Waffle group, a left wing formation in the NDP. It goes on to say that the RCMP investigation of certain members of the Waffle group "established that subversive elements penetrated the NDP through the Waffle in order to gain more respectability, credibility and influence. Although the RCMP investigation concentrated on individuals of security interest, inquiries were broadened sufficiently to put the activities of these individuals in proper perspective. The investigation was de-emphasized after the NDP decided to rid itself of the Waffle. The individuals of concern to the RCMP, having lost the legitimacy of membership in the NDP also lost interest in the Waffle." The statement however emphasized that "the RCMP concern with these individuals was not reduced but any concerns that the RCMP had that these subversive elements were using the Waffle as a means of penetrating the NDP and therefore as a means of acquiring credibility and influence was accordingly eliminated."

Socialism, Communism, Trotskyism, that is, Marxism as an ideology, has long been subject to slander—with Trotskyism in recent weeks being singled out for special attention by such persons as the Prime Minister and the Solicitor-General. On this occasion, in a statement drawn up with the Ontario Attorney-General's office and released to the press, the RCMP has named a specific organization and designated its leadership as subversive—that is, as an organization tending to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means. In present-day society, this makes one subject to prosecution under the Criminal Code, not to speak of making all of one's views, no matter what their appearance, suspect of having a sinister aim resulting in ruptures in family relationships, loss of friends, the jeopardizing of employment possibilities, and so on. There is no doubt that such harassment has gravely crippled the free development of the movement to which I and my associates have dedicated our entire lives.

As the leader of the League for Socialist Action for most of its existence and as a leading proponent of Trotskyism in Canada, I feel it is incumbent on me to respond to this slander of Trotskyist ideas as subversive and its organized political expression at that time, the League for Socialist Action, as a subversive organization.

On the advice of counsel, a Notice under the Libel and Slander Act was served on the Federal Government



and an action for slander was commenced in the Federal Court of Canada on December 15th, 1977 by myself. I am claiming special damages in the amount of \$50,000 and general punitive and exemplary damages in the amount of \$450,000.

Though punitive and exemplary damages are being claimed in the suit, its main purpose is to establish the legitimacy of socialist and communist views as ideas which may be legally held and promoted in Canada by lawful means. The RCMP slander is nothing less than an attempt to outlaw socialist currents of thought and provide an excuse and cover for RCMP activities fundamentally directed against the labor movement and its political arm, the New Democratic Party. It is not just myself, all those who were members or sympathizers of the LSA, and ex-Communists, but the Waffle and the New Democratic Party itself which has been slandered by this RCMP interference in its internal affairs.

For this reason, though the suit takes on a personal form in as much as I am the plaintiff, what is really at stake is the right to hold dissenting views and in particular the legitimacy and legality of socialist views. For this reason, this law suit really belongs to the entire left and defends everyone's right to dissent.

Q. What will be the main issues at trial?

A. I have been informed by my lawyer, Harry Kopyto, who is a civil rights practitioner and a member of the NDP like myself, that the court

will have to decide whether Trotskyism is subversive as an ideology and, as the League for Socialist Action practised it. Thus, the entire principles and program of revolutionary socialism will be relevant evidence in the trial.

Q. Could you give us some details as to the nature of the legal proceedings?

A. The suit, of course, is framed as an action for slander and it will be heard in the Federal Court of Canada, which I understand has jurisdiction in most suits against the federal government and its agencies. Since the Federal Court Act declares the RCMP to be a servant of the federal government, the suit itself names "Her Majesty the Queen" as the Defendant.

I have been advised that this suit can go to trial within a one year period from the time of its commencement.

Q. How do you plan to conduct the political defence of this case?

A. It is our hope to achieve the widest unity and support for this action through an all-embracing defence committee. We are presently approaching civil rights and radical groups to discuss in detail the basis for co-operation. On top of that, we are going to need considerable financial aid to cover the many costs of conducting such a defence—we are setting up a foundation to which contributions can be sent. In the meantime, supporters can make cheques payable to Socialist Rights Defence Fund, c/o Harry Kopyto, Barrister and Solicitor, 390 Bay St., Ste. 700, Toronto.

*(Handwritten letter)*

Feb 3/78

Dear Cy Gonick:

I am enclosing my review of Norman Penner's useful book – perhaps you can do something with it – all or in part. As you will note we reproduce a portion of the Committee for a New Constitution brief to the Task Force on Canadian Unity. I think it may be useful to Dimension – after reading our selection I appreciate the significance of the document as a whole. I will rummage around for our copy and send it on. They did not reproduce it in the Feb. issue of Forum as I would have expected. I still think that the constituent assembly demand is the best answer to the Canadian unity appeals – that is why I am hoping you will review the copy of the pamphlet I wrote up on it and sent off to you.

Comradely,  
Ross Dowson

(I also asked him what he thought of our RCMP case)

*(Ref: "Canada & the Quebec Crisis" – see home page, Quebec Series)*



25-1975-18 H.A. Minutes  
Toronto branch meeting February 6, 1978

Motion - to adopt standard agenda with adaptations

John D. in chair  
substitute secretary Ross Dowson

Attendance-- present--Gordon, Alice K, Edlie K, John D, Ross D  
Harry K--from out of town Art Gray.

Absent with reason--Dale R, Rozy D, Wayne R, Bob K, Mike H

Minutes--not available

Membership-- Dowson report on phone call from Paul K to the effect that he was resigning from organization. He appears to have developed differences that are taking him in the direction of the IS  
Motion to accept his resignation--passed unan.

-motion that we inform Randy that we are moving towards suspending him from membership in the organization- for non-attendance.  
passed--unan

-Motion that both Harry P and Bill Martin be formally approached with a view to coming to some kind of understanding with regards to their financial obligations to the movement. passed, unan.

Motion that we consider Andy Effert as a live contact -passed  
Educational. Motion that we accept Harry K's offer to give his class this coming Friday in view of Gordon's difficulties --passed unan  
Suite against RCMP---report by Harry K. The Queen has filed her statement of defence so the case is now moving firmly forward.

Harry commented on aspects of the technical aspect of the defence.  
Motion that the executive meet as soon as possible to discuss our launching our case. and rallying support.--passed unan.

Good and Welfare---report on Penner meeting on his book and the central aspect he gave in his speech to our review of the book in the current issue

Motion that the executive bring back a report to the next meeting on the change in name of the organization--passed unan. Art asked that his opposition to change in name be recorded.

Educational---Discussion on the NDP convention--among notable comments were the effective interventions of Harry on the RCMP and Dale on Immigration Quebec. 800 to 900 copies of the paper were distributed. About 30 copies of Quebec and the Canada Crisis sold. We were maneuvered out of a bookstore display. General appreciation that that the convention revealed the low level of the membership which was well represented at the convention--and a move to the left in the face of developing unemployment and the obvious merit of nationalization as in the case of Inco. There appears that there is every possibility of the left caucus that met three times during the convention taking on a continuing character.



*(Handwritten letter)*

Feb 9/78

Kevin Mann  
Bathurst NB

Dear Kevin

Received the file of Plain Dealer in good order. Thanks very much. Haven't yet had a chance to go through it largely because of the Ont. Convention here.

The press – and the Tories are now making out that the election of Cassidy signifies that the old Waffle is taking over. Laxer appears to have aided Cassidy in his speeches ... which were undifferentiated from the others as far as I can ascertain. A left caucus emerged during the convention – it had 3 meetings – maximum 100. Ex Ont. NDP president Turk was the leading personality – its supporters voted all ways on the leadership but shaped up around Inco nationalization and Quebec (opposed to the Unity reservation on self-determination). We will be covering it in the next issue of Forward.

Here is our latest

Fraternally  
Ross Dowson

# Progress Report on Feb 15/78

Harry has contacted lawyer - Genest - to arrange the date of the examination for discovery - suggested date is after May 15 - before June 5

we are asking that Deputy Director General Smith appear as rep of Queen

we are demanding that they produce anything + everything related to the charge that the USA and of as a leader are subversive dirty tricks - tapped open mail

they in their defence claim qualified privilege. The law says that this is not a defence if we can prove that they:  
a) acted maliciously (I know that their charge is false)  
b) acted with reckless abandon

we will claim that they did both @ RCMP is being revealed as having violated our rights and therefore is attempting to cover up with the pretence that we are subversive and anything is justified we will claim that they acted without concern as to truth and the probable consequence of their act

they are malicious + reckless abandon

we will bring to the examination for discovery all the evidence of harassment - to clarify our knowledge. fit  
See p 2 - Dick  
p 14 - 11/9/76  
Copy of Comm Manifesto - all our documents spec. ref to NDP  
LP question

What our defence is - on violence terror  
- our obligation is to inform them how we are going to conduct ourselves

Say little as possible - lies - No ~~is~~ get out of it unscathed as possible



The League des droits de l'Homme has initiated  
l'Operation liberte 3836 Rue St-Hubert  
MTL H2L 4A5

Supported by many org - notably the CSN, FTQ, CEQ  
and their Montreal organizations  
and the Mouvement national des Quebecois (MNQ) + the LOR

distributing a "Dossier noir sur la police politique,  
~~des allants~~ Non  
des allants' Non au viol du courrier par la GRC"  
holding a meeting in May

X reacts on the Mar 22/8 Little Ouverture

— Lets write for their Black Book  
~~for the~~ —  
acquaint them with our case

928 5212

Jan 3 — in afternoon dull pain — had a coffee at 4  
would have eaten something but had not picked up  
any fruit for my lunch. Think the onion & egg sandwich  
a factor.

after supper — about 10 — intense dull pain stomach  
when lying down eased — not at all sure but milk +  
water food easing it — went to bed early — once lying  
down no pain

Jan 4 — have decided to cut out onion & egg sandwich  
fish sandwich — banana — around 2 dull pain but  
superficial



March 9/78

Dear

Dear Dan — and Alice — as I understand that Harry Kopyto was talking with you on this matter

Here is the material that I ~~sent~~ said that I would send you

Among the endorsers at this date are

Clay Ruby

Charles Beach

Cy Gonick

Leo Panitch

Norman Penner etc etc

I would much appreciate your endorsements

My phone from 11 to 515 daytime is 5951284

if there should be any questions

thanks for your  
consideration

I am really looking forward to the development of the case so I can clear the many victims of RCMP harassment + keep the future clearer

Bob Dowson

*(Handwritten letter)*

Mar 20/78

Dear Dave (Piatti, Autoworker, Oshawa?)

I picked up the mail this morning at the P.O. box to find your very welcome cheque. But I haven't seen you for sometime, heard what you are doing in the NDP or what is happening in the shop now that we are heading towards the CLC convention.

I like to keep in touch with what is happening in the shop – thro your eyes – so I know what and how to think about where the class struggle is at. We have all too few listening posts.

Of course the students put on a massive mobilization against the cutbacks right across the country – possibly 1,500 Ryersonians walked past the shop on the way to the rally and demo – but while this embarrasses the bureaucracy they don't have any real hitting power and about all the bosses care is about their being a possible example to their own boys on the job – even the few workers and their families (who) identify with graduate students.

The court case is moving slowly – we have had a good response from the new Marxists – Cy Gonick, Norman Penner, Leo Panitch – from Clay Ruby and the head of the Unitarian Church, but we are stalled on the NDP – Harney will let us know Thursday -- with him we will probably get Heap. Then we will try to get a press break.

The Metro area council NDP is getting firmed up – it looks like the Labor Council really intends to move in to get a mayoralty candidate.

We were all set for a class next Friday until one of the atheists here said next Friday is good Friday...

Looking forward to seeing you first chance,

Ross

For Immediate Release

April 7, 1978

A growing number of prominent members of the New Democratic Party, the trade union movement, the academic community and civil liberties organizations are declaring their support for a slander action launched against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police arising out of that force's secret spying activities directed against civil rights in Canada and specifically the New Democratic Party.

The following constitutes a partial list of supporters of the case to date; organizations are listed for identification only:

Robert Albritton, professor of political science, York University  
Kenneth Danson, lawyer  
Cy Gonick of Canadian Dimension  
Rev. Duke T. Gray of the Unitarian Congregation, Toronto  
John Harney  
Grace Hartman, president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Greg Kealey, professor of history, Dalhousie University  
Ian Lumsden, professor of political science, York University  
George Martell, author  
Michael Mason, professor of history, Concordia University  
Terry Meagher, vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Labour  
Leo Panitch, professor of political science, Carleton University  
Elenor Wright Pelrine, author  
Norman Penner, professor of political science, Glendon Campus, York University  
Al Purdy, poet  
Satu Repo, author  
Charles Roach, lawyer  
Joe Rosenblatt, poet  
Clayton C. Ruby, lawyer  
Stephen Williams of Exile and Toronto Life  
etc., etc.

The statement

ent signed by the above individuals and now being widely circulated along with other relevant material, reads as follows:

"We wish to indicate our support as concerned civil libertarians for the suit initiated by Mr. Ross Dowson, against the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We understand that the purpose of this suit is to establish the legitimacy and legality of socialist thought in face of charges of "subversion" by the RCMP. We believe that individuals have the right to express their views free of unwarranted and unsubstantiated allegations of subversion. We believe that the charge of subversion has been used and is being used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labour movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada. Though we may not necessarily agree with the political views of Mr.



Dowson, we do believe that the real test of a democracy is its ability to tolerate and respect individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority at any given “time.”

While claiming not to have investigated the NDP as such, despite accumulation of evidence to the contrary, an RCMP statement made public on December 9th affirmed that it had investigated an extensive current that developed as an integral part of the NDP — the Waffle — which it alleges invited into that party ex-members of the Communist Party and members of the Trotskyist movement, specifically the League for Socialist Action, which it defined as subversive, as tending “to promote changes brought on by violent and undemocratic means”.

Ross Dowson, the plaintiff in the suit, was chairman and executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action during the relevant period. He is claiming that the RCMP statement, which was even described by Ontario’s Attorney-General as “vague and ambiguous”, slanders his and his co-thinkers’ political integrity and leaves them open to prosecution under at least two sections of the Criminal Code.

The broad support for this action from individuals concerned with the protection of civil liberties, as well as leaders in the NDP and trade unions, could exert an important restraining influence on the federal government and on the RCMP with reference to activities directed against individuals and organizations representing dissenting minority views but operating in full accordance with the laws of the country.

In addition, the suit confronts directly the charge of subversion which has traditionally been used by the RCMP to isolate and illegalize Marxist and socialist groups.

The suit, launched in the Federal Court of Canada on December 15th, is moving rapidly to its second stage, the examinations for discovery. Harry Kopyto, Mr. Dowson’s counsel and a civil rights lawyer, said that this stage of the suit will give Mr. Dowson an opportunity to obtain evidence relevant to RCMP “malice” against him and the others maligned. Such evidence could unmask the whole story of RCMP spying on the NDP and trade unions.

For further information, contact Christine Judge, Administrative Secretary of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund,

50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, M4K 1V5, telephone 466-1307 or

Mr. Harry Kopyto, Mr. Dowson’s counsel, 390 Bay Street, Suite 700, Toronto, M5H 2Y2, telephone 862-7020.

by R.D.

Report on Canadian Civil Liberties Assoc meeting Toronto April 10.  
1978

probably about 150 people.

we distributed 50 copies of the press release--no other tendencies there other than Trotskyist League--they sold paper, ~~about~~ about 8 people participated in the discussion period as the audience dwindled --a couple of left wingers but no one that RD recognized as rep any tendency

Key person there was retired RCMP Commissioner William Kelly Brovovoy and Walter Tarnopowsky represented Cdn Civil Liberties and some Lib candidate substituted for Kaplan. Brovovoy all in all did a good job in handling Kelly however no one participated in the point as I raised other than Kelly ---Troyer who was in the chair appeared as if to cut me off after a period but Brovovoy interceded in an aside to him ??? four areas to the contribution---Mail opening Bill-- Writs of assistance ---

In the course of one of Kelly's comments he touched on the matter of subversion--he said that it is covered by Section 16 of the Official Secrets Act. Some subversion is against the law--but there is subversion that is not against the law, he said

I picked this up in my contribution I ~~repeated~~ repeated what he had said to the best of my memory and asked him if I heard him correctly --he affirmed I did. I challenged on what basis was this so--who and what organizations are subversive, who decided and on what basis, were there hearings, did those alleged to be subversive have the opportunity to face the charge---~~and~~ did the RCMP determine this or did they only implement instructions of the Trudeau government--then I referred to the RCMP-Ont Government reply to Stephen Lewis inquiry as to whether the NDP had been investigated--and the statement that they had not investigate the NDP as such but the Waffle and not as such but those invited by the Waffle--- ex communists and the LSA and its leaders

He replied that the Communist party is subversive and so are the Trotskyists--~~this brought gasps of surprise from the audience~~ this brought gasps of surprise from the audience, he referred to Trotskyist infiltration of the NDP in BC and the leaderships lifting a club charter--yes the NDP is under surveillance-- this is to do with subversion that is not covered by the Official Secrets Act--my impression is that this flows from a Royal Commission of a few years back--probably the one that Colwell was on and its recommendations. Did the government adopt some recommendations--did they become law in some way--we must thoroughly check out the material in Fidler's RWL brief. My recollection is that CPers and Trotskyists are refused Security clearance and it is in this sense they are subversive according to Kelly. ..so far. I had to yield the mike and no one picked up any of this



May 10, 1978

Ross Dowson #2311  
40 Homewood Ave,  
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

Political Rights Defense Fund  
New York

Attention Arthur Hughes

Dear friend:

About a month ago you were so good as to forward me a packet of material that the Fund has published on its excellent work. As the central figure in a campaign that has been launched by the Socialist Rights Defence Fund I have been able to put it to good use in our efforts. I am enclosing a couple of items that have been issued by the SRDF that will give you an idea of what we are attempting to do around the developing revelations of the federal police's (RCMP) secret spying activities directed against civil rights here in Canada. As you can see from our list of sponsors ~~our~~ the response to our appeal for aid has been good and it is right now really starting to take-off

In scanning through some of the material I notice a couple of items on the CIA's collaboration with "friendly foreign intelligence services to obtain information about US citizens travelling abroad." --in particular a NYT item of Feb 22, 1977 by Marro. There is little doubt that the RCMP was such a "friendly foreign intelligence service". It has recently come to light in the investigations taking place here that the RCMP planted a Warren Hart in the Canadian Native movement. . This agent provocateur is a self admitted CIA agent. There have been incidents come to light where the FBI actually crossed into Canada to seize and in effect kidnap US draft evaders who had been granted sanctuary here.

I am wondering if in your investigations you have come across material that could prove useful to us in our exposure of the RCMP. ~~Examine~~ If so I am wondering if you could make it available to us --either by xerox-ing it at our expense or by one of us visiting NY and examining it.

Possibly the pressure to pursue material more directly relevant to your case has not permitted you to search out and demand documentation in this area. What do you think the possibilities ~~of~~ are of getting materials in this area--I see from the Marro article that a local District Court judge has barred the release of somewhat similar materials. My attempts to obtain material in the federal governments information banks under the new Human Rights Act here have so far proven fruitless. However things appear to be more open there and it may be possible for us or someone acting on our behalf to obtain useful information.

I would very much appreciate hearing from you on these matters as soon as your offices could find the time

sincerely

R. Dowson

R. Dowson # 2311  
40 Homewood Ave  
Toronto, M4Y 2K2

May 10, 1978

H. Kostuk, MacDonald Commission of Inquiry  
151 Spark St.,  
Ottawa, K1P 5R5

Dear Sir;

Further to our recent discussion concerning RCMP acts of harassment against myself and co-thinkers, I enclose a xerox copy of a report written by Claire Dowson on the break-in of the League for Socialist Action headquarters at 334 Queen Street West in August 1971.

Prepared at the time of the break-in it does not contain all the information some of which I related to you--for instance that membership and contact lists were taken

Around that same time the janitor of a nearby building informed me that the garbage that we put out to be picked up by the municipal services was being taken away in advance of the garbage detail by persons who he identified to me as police.



Ross Dowson  
#2311 40 Homewood Ave  
Toronto, M4Y2K2

May 29, 1978

H. Kostluk, National Commission of Inquiry  
151 Spark St.,  
Ottawa, K1B 5R5

Dear Sir;

Thanks for your call of this morning. I had prepared a copy of the report written by Claire Dowson on the break-in of the League for Socialist Action headquarters at 334 Queen Street West in August 1971---and had even addressed an envelope to send it off in, but the pressure of other work pushed that matter aside.

Claire's report was written up on my request and for the consumption of LSA officers at the time of the break-in. It does not of course contain all the information some of which I related to you--for instance that membership and contact lists were taken. Steele told Claire not to inform the police so that we could first examine the damage and estimate losses. As I told you the police were later informed ~~xx~~. The fact that our insurance claim required this convinces me that we did inform them although I do not myself recall any aspect of their enquiries.

~~xxxxxxxx~~ The nature of the break-in and the nature of what was taken convinced us at the time that some level of the police were the actual perpetrators of the break-in or were party to it. The smashing of the bookstore door is hard to understand as it is completely separate and apart from the headquarters which adjoins it. At the time I recall I concluded that the door to the headquarters was picked by professionals--although once in ~~the~~ the robbers took the chain of keys requiring us change all the locks.

Around the same time the janitor of a nearby building--I think of the Canadian Legion, informed us that the garbage that we put out to be picked up by the municipal services was being taken away in advance of the garbage detail by persons who he identified to us as the police.

I hope that this information is of use to you. Of course I would be prepared to appear before the commission

sincerely

Ross Dowson



# SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary  
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

50 Thorncliffe Ave.  
Toronto M4K 1V5

FROM OUR GROWING  
NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS \*



ROBERT ALBRITTON, professor  
of political science,  
York University

KENNETH DANSON, lawyer  
CY GONICK of

*Canadian Dimension*

REV. DUKE T. GRAY of  
the Unitarian Congregation,  
Toronto

JOHN HARNEY

GRACE HARTMAN, president of  
the Canadian Union of  
Public Employees

GREG KEALEY, professor of  
history, Dalhousie University

IAN LUMSDEN, professor  
of political science,  
York University

GEORGE MARTELL, author

MICHAEL MASON, professor  
of history, Concordia University

TERRY MEAGHER, vice-president  
of the Ontario Federation  
of Labor

LEO PANICH, professor  
of political science,  
Carleton University

ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE,  
author

NORMAN PENNER, professor  
of political science,  
Glendon Campus, York

AL PURDY, poet

SATU REPO, author

CHARLES ROACH, lawyer

JOE ROSENBLATT, poet

CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer

STEPHEN WILLIAMS of  
*Exile and Toronto Life*

\* organizations listed for  
for identification only

le 5 juin 1978

Peut-on tolérer que des compatriotes soient jugés comme "subversifs" par la Gendarmerie Royale Canadienne sans pouvoir exercer leur droit de se défendre ou de contester une telle accusation? Peut-on tolérer que le Nouveau Parti Démocratique soit l'objet d'une investigation étendue de la part de la Gendarmerie Royale Canadienne, pour la raison qui n'en est pas une que les activités de quelques personnes jugées subversives puissent être évaluées "dans une juste perspective"?

Dans une déclaration devenue publique, le 9 décembre, 1977, la Gendarmerie Royale accusa le Waffle d'avoir invité dans leur rangs des "subversifs," soit des gens qui préconisent des changements sociaux par des moyens violents et anti-démocratiques. Ces subversifs étaient des ex-communistes, des trotskystes et des membres de la League for Socialist Action.

La déclaration de la Gendarmerie fut rendue publique par le Procureur Général Roy McMurtry en réponse aux questions de Stephen Lewis, à la suite d'un compte-rendu du Globe and Mail du 10 septembre 1977 qui dit: "Des sources d'information de la Gendarmerie Royale du Canada nous apprennent que l'enquête qui au début était limitée, a fait boule de neige et implique maintenant les principaux membres du parti."

L'ex-leader du NPD en Ontario, Stephen Lewis, à ce moment-là déclara que la Gendarmerie avait "perdu contact avec la réalité" en décidant que certains membres du parti participants du caucus Waffle constituaient une menace pour la sécurité du pays, au début des années 70.

Six jours plus tard, les accusations de la Gendarmerie étant devenues publiques, Ross Dowson, président et secrétaire général de la League for Socialist Action dans le temps, intenta un procès en diffamation contre la Gendarmerie et Sa Majesté la Reine au niveau du Fédéral. L'action en libelle dit que la déclaration de la Gendarmerie Royale, qui fut décrite par Roy McMurtry lui-même comme "vague," "ambigue," dénigre Ross Dowson et tous ceux qui dans son entourage partagent les mêmes idées, les rend vulnérable, sujets à des poursuites judiciaires sous deux articles du Code Criminel.

Alors que la poursuite revêt un caractère personnel, elle a pour but d'apporter une contribution concrète, substantielle, à des protestations contre les atteintes aux libertés civiles portées par la Gendarmerie Royale, protestations venant de la Canadian Association for Civil Liberties et de La Ligue des Droits de l'Homme. Ce procès a aussi pour but d'établir le droit d'entretenir des vues non conformes aux institutions établies et surtout d'établir le droit d'entretenir et de propager les conceptions marxistes et de les propager selon des méthodes légales.

Monsieur Harry Kopyto, avocat des libertés civiles nous a informés que la prochaine étape du procès, les examens préliminaires, peut dévoiler toute



DECLARATION DES OBJECTIFS DU COMITE  
DE DEFENSE DES DROITS DES SOCIALISTES

Nous désirons indiquer notre appui, en tant que citoyens soucieux de protéger les droits civils, envers le procès intenté par M. Ross Dowson, contre la Gendarmerie Royale du Canada. Nous comprenons que ce procès a pour but d'établir la légitimité et la légalité des vues socialistes contre les accusations de "subversion" portées par la Gendarmerie Royale.

Nous croyons que les individus ont le droit d'exprimer leurs vues sans avoir à faire face à des allegations non fondées et non méritées de subversion.

Nous croyons que l'accusation de subversion a servi et sert encore à justifier l'intervention dans les affaires internes et le harcèlement d'organisations légales comme le Nouveau Parti Démocratique et du mouvement ouvrier. Nous croyons aussi que ces activités menacent d'érosion le droit démocratique d'entretenir des opinions non conformes aux institutions établies au Canada.

Même si nous ne nous accordons pas nécessairement avec les idées politiques de monsieur Dowson, nous croyons que l'épreuve décisive d'une démocratie est sa capacité de tolérer et de respecter les individus dont les vues peuvent ne pas s'accorder avec celles de la majorité à une certaine conjoncture.



J'appuie la déclaration ci-dessus.



Ci-joint, vous trouverez une contribution au fonds d'aide aux frais de Cour.

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Retourner cette déclaration aussitôt que possible au Comité de Défense des Droits des Socialistes, 50 Thorncliffe Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4K 1V5.



July 21/78

Prairie Star  
10737 - 95 St  
Edmonton, Alta

Dear Comrades

We received the sample copy of  
your magazine with an offer to exchange  
with Forward.

We are more than happy to carry on an  
exchange & have entered Prairie Star on our  
list.

But we are also interested in procuring a  
small bundle for sale in our bookstore here  
in Toronto.

Could you arrange to send us say <sup>3</sup> copies  
on consignment commencing with the Spring  
1978 issue.

It is not clear how long you have been in  
publication. Is it possible to get back issues  
for our files - we would be pleased to pay  
for them. Let us know.

I am quite impressed by the theoretical  
level of the Spring issue - and incidentally  
by the fact that you are promoting in your  
book service almost the identical books we are  
promoting in our store.

Looking forward to hearing  
from you

fraternally  
Doss Dowson

The Forward Group is meeting this coming Sunday July 23  
at 8 p.m. at 121 Church Street

(Found  
in 1978)

The paper is off and has been mailed

This coming Friday, before the FG meeting, there is an event  
that you and friends might want to attend

Fiesta Cubana at St Lawrence Market commencing  
at 8 - program at 9 - until 1 a.m. sponsored  
by the Canadian Cuba Friendship and World Youth  
Festival which is being held in Habana \*

Don't forget - we are planning two days at the camp that some  
might like to stretch into three on the long August weekend  
-- meaning Saturday July 29 and Sunday July 30--we will need  
transportation....we will work out program this Sunday

\* the June 18 issue of Granma has an ignorant and vicious  
Stalinist smear of Trotskyism

I phoned but line busy - finally got thro  
to Guy - there is no opera or operetta  
by name Ma donte - the library is quite sure

## **OPEN LETTER TO THE WARD 6 MEETING OF JULY 31 , 1978**

When Alderman Heap and School Trustees Leckie and Spencer pointed to the fundamental limitation of the Reform movement — that “it must stick to municipal issues and tries only to correct the harmful results of the corporations’ profiteering” and that it is “the system that supports these corporations (that) must be challenged, and for that fight working people needs an NDP working at all levels,” they projected a whole new perspective.

We carried this forward when we set up our NDP ward organization in Ward 6 and when we decided to run candidates on the NDP label — that our candidates would declare themselves as NDPers and so expose the agents of the Big Business parties, the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives, both hidden and declared, who dominate municipal politics across Canada, and at the same time demonstrate that our politics transcend the liberal-reform politics of such even well-intentioned group as Toronto’s Reform Metro.

The challenge before us now is not to lose momentum, to aid by example our co-thinkers across Metro and in other Canadian municipalities to enter fully into the municipal arena to run label candidates and where possible to present an alternate NDP slate to the ward heelers of the parties of Big Business. And to commence to build up steam behind the candidates who we as an NDP organization decide to run as our own candidates under the label of the NDP, on its program, and accountable to our organization.

Where we are not running a full slate, how the electorate should mark their ballot after they have campaigned for and voted for the NDP-label candidates is distinctly a secondary matter to our building a powerful campaign behind our NDP candidates. The NDP is not just another political formation but it is the party of a particular class — the working class of Canada — the party of the over 2-1/2 million strong organized labor movement in the Canadian Labour Congress and such bodies as the Metro Toronto Labour Council, which have committed themselves to it and to the realization of a socialist Canada.

We should not lose the momentum that the Heap-Leckie-Spencer action has given to a big NDP effort and we should take no actions that would or would even tend to cut across it. Regardless of the possibilities of some similarities in program, we should not confuse our efforts to raise funds or build an effective NDP operation posing the class question before the electorate, via the NDP program and party label, with the efforts of other candidates seeking office who do not happen to agree with our view, and who choose to run under different auspices over which we have only limited influence and not the slightest element of control.

Should we even make the gesture of endorsing other candidates such as Alderman Sparrow and Trustee candidates Doiron, Nagle and Colle who are asking our endorsement and Alderman Sewell who has not yet sought our endorsement of his mayoralty effort, and possibly others? We should be aware that our actions will be duly noted and can have an important effect on the decision that other NDP Ward organizations make with regards to other candidates, particularly

Reform Metro which appears as a sort of municipal party, and on the outcome of whether Metro Toronto Area Council will be able to seriously implement its decision to encourage the formation of NDP Ward organizations and the running of NDP label candidates.

Such a proposition should not be decided on a personal basis; the respect we may have for this or that individual candidate or even the possibility that some open reactionary candidate may succeed against a reform candidate in getting elected to a seat on city council. It is not a personal matter but a political matter. Much more than the election of a few candidates is at stake. We are being asked as the mass political expression of the working class to underwrite the future actions of candidates who are in no way accountable to the labor movement or to the NDP.

Such a proposition could only be entertained in the belief that it not only does not cut across our aim to establish the NDP as a municipal force but that it in some way even enhances it. In previous elections other established political currents in the working class movement have fielded a scattering of candidates who could be considered useful for the NDP to endorse. But Reform Metro is not such a working class tendency, and doesn't claim to be so; but is a coalition limited by its nature to achieving liberal reforms, that even tries to win support by disavowing such partisanship and broad fundamental aims. Its posture as a municipal party, inevitably, regardless of the intent of its supporters, undercuts efforts to establish the NDP as the political force it must become on the municipal arena.

— contribution from Ross Dowson  
vice president Rosedale NDP



## **Should WARD 6 NDP run only one or should it run two candidates in the coming aldermanic contest?**

Although we are part of a Canada-wide labor party whose views encompass the problems of the working people of Ward 6 and transcend and link them up to solutions on the provincial and federal level, we decided last year to run only one candidate — leaving one open to Ward 6 Community Organization which has many aspects of a political party but one limited to Metro Toronto. The arguments for doing so, couched in terms of “real” politics, were largely as follows: Sparrow was already a sitting member seeking re-election, he was a credible candidate, and besides, an agreement could be worked out with Ward 6 CO whereby they would support our one candidate.

Our balance sheet drawn immediately following that experience was that it was a bad one for the NDP. We do not need to get into the personal motivations of the Ward 6 CO leadership. There was the simple fact that the alderman who topped the poll automatically won the Metro seat. At the last moment Ward 6 CO publicly revealed that it did not support our candidate by urging a plumped vote for theirs.

Once again we are being urged to consider running only one candidate — once again on grounds of what are called real or practical politics – which once again does not hold water. A sitting or highly credible candidate is not an argument this time as Sparrow has withdrawn. The main argument is that Ward 6 CO, which appeared to be going down the drain, it is heavily in debt and the North Jarvis organization is defunct, has undergone a considerable and lively growth, largely through the unfortunate action of NDPers who have done little to build the Ward 6 NDP, getting highly involved in their nomination contest.

Instead of giving leadership, so far, we have held back, pending the outcome of the nomination struggle in Ward 6 CO and second-guessing what this conflict will mean to our cause. But it is already clear that nothing good for the NDP will come out of this.

One candidate for the CO nomination is Jack Layton, known as a closet NDPer, who has said, should he fail to win the nomination, that he will support his opponent George Hislop, and who has declared that should there be a conflict of interest between the NDP and the CO that he will be on the side of the CO. George Hislop is a single issue candidate, gay civil rights, which any candidate we run supports, and who was nominated to the planning board by hard-line reactionary Alderman Donahue. Hislop has intimated that if he doesn't get the CO nomination, on the basis of the support he has built up in the CO and elsewhere, that he will probably run anyway.

Thus the CO, while expressing preference for one will in effect end up building up two candidates. Needless to say this will be at the expense of any serious support of our candidate. In fact if we continue this second-guessing game about what Ward 6 CO will do, it is even possible that our one candidate could end up being defeated in this murky political process.

Nothing good can come out of this for the NDP effort. By not making known our intention to present two candidates we have failed to give leadership to NDP supporters who are getting caught up in these opportunistic maneuvers.

The Ward 6 NDP if it is to become an effective community-based operation has to give leadership. That means applying and developing our worked out labor-NDP municipal program. It means building up interest in our movement, presenting our Ward 6 operation as a stimulating and constantly renewing movement, and its becoming in actual fact the center for progressive activity in Ward 6.

Ross Dowson of St George NDP

**(Two resolutions attached to the Ward 6 NDP flyer “Should Ward 6 NPD run only one ... “)**

WHEREAS our party as the political arm of the organized working class movement is in fundamental political opposition to Liberal and Tory governments of the Big Business interests;

WHEREAS, in the face of growing popular scepticism fed by the boss-controlled media that our party, particularly when it has real political leverage, acts like all parties, putting narrow sectarian conjunctural interests before proclaimed principle, it is thus also necessary at all times that our party appear to be in fundamental political opposition to the Liberals and Tories;

WHEREAS the Ontario Liberals, to be sure for reasons they think favorable to them, have presented a motion of non-confidence in the Davis government which actually does spell out key and pressing issues that can only be recognized by our supporters and those we hope to win as supporters, as valid grounds upon which the Ontario government should be brought down — and they have announced their intention to continue to put forward non-confidence motions on every possible occasion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our Parliamentary caucus cease and desist, when challenged on substantial grounds, from lining up behind the Tories and thereby supporting their continuing to hold office and legislating against the interests of the working people of Ontario.

WHEREAS the RCMP have justified an investigation into the ONDP in the early 1970s with charges of subversion against Waffle members and supporters;

WHEREAS Ross Dowson has sued the RCMP for slander in the face of these charges in order to defend the legality and legitimacy of socialist, especially Marxist thought;

WHEREAS the suit was formally endorsed by the NDP at its last federal convention

WHEREAS the suit has revealed RCMP crimes committed against Toronto socialists under the RCMP Codename Operation Checkmate;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ONDP call upon Attorney-General Roy McMurtry to prosecute those RCMPers who were responsible for authorizing and carrying out such crimes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ONDP extend all reasonable assistance to ensure that the suit is carried through to a successful conclusion.



# SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND

CHRISTINE JUDGE, Administrative Secretary  
HARRY PAINE, Pres. of St. David's NDP, Treasurer

50 Thorncliffe Ave.

Toronto M4K 1V5

PRESS RELEASE

AUGUST 4, 1978

## FROM OUR GROWING NUMBER OF SUPPORTERS\*

INTERNATIONAL:  
Naom Chomsky, Jessica Mitford,  
Linus Pauling, Benjamin Spock

CANADA  
ROBERT ALHRITTON, professor  
of political science,  
York University  
MARY BOYCE, lawyer  
ANDREW BREWIN, NDP-MP  
DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, actor  
CARL CUNEO, professor  
of sociology,  
McMaster University  
KENNETH DANSON, lawyer  
CHANDLER DAVIS, professor  
of mathematics,  
University of Toronto  
DR. D. DICKMAN, psychiatrist  
DR. JAMES J. ENDICOTT of  
The Far East Newsletter  
SAM FOX, president  
of the Labour Council of  
Metro Toronto  
EDGAR Z. FRIEDENBERG,  
professor of education,  
Dalhousie University  
DANNY GOLDSTICK, professor  
of philosophy,  
University of Toronto  
CY GONICK of  
Canadian Dimension  
REV. DUKE T. GRAY of  
the Unitarian Congregation,  
Toronto  
JOHN HARNEY, professor of  
Canadian Studies, Atkinson College,  
York University  
GRACE HARTMAN, president of  
the Canadian Union of  
Public Employees  
GREG KEALEY, professor of  
history, Dalhousie University  
PAT KERWIN, director  
of political education, CLC  
MARGARET LAURENCE, author  
D. W. LIVINGSTONE, professor  
of sociology, OISE  
IAN LUMSDEN, professor  
of political science,  
York University  
GEORGE MARTELL, author  
MICHAEL MASON, professor  
of history, Concordia University  
TERRY MEAGHER,  
secretary treasurer, OFI  
G. J. & C. J. McEWEN of  
Affairs of the Moment  
MAX NEMNI, professor  
de science politique, Laval  
B. D. PALMER, professor  
of history, Queen's  
LEO PANICH, professor  
of political science,  
Carleton University  
GLEN PATTINSON,  
Canadian district president IUE  
(AFL-CIO/CLC)  
ELEANOR WRIGHT PELRINE,  
author  
NORMAN PENNER, professor  
of political science,  
Glendon Campus, York  
H. C. PENTLAND, professor  
of economics,  
University of Manitoba  
AL PURDY, poet  
JAMES W. RINEHART, professor  
of sociology, University of  
Western Ontario  
SATU REPO, author  
CHARLES ROACH, lawyer  
WAYNE ROBERTS of Forward  
ELLIOT ROSE, professor  
of history,  
University of Toronto  
JOE ROSENBLATT, poet  
SIMON ROSENBLUM, professor  
of sociology,  
Laurentian University  
JOE ROSENTHAL, artist  
CLAYTON C. RUBY, lawyer  
J. L. SKOBERG, NDP-MLA,  
Saskatchewan  
DENIS SMITH of  
The Canadian Forum  
NEIL TUDIVER,  
department of social work,  
University of Manitoba  
A. L. WERNICK, professor  
of sociology,  
Trent University  
STEPHEN WILLIAMS of  
Exile and Toronto Life

The Deputy Minister of Justice in Ottawa will be the main witness for the Federal government in pre-trial hearings in a \$500,000.00 law suit against the Canadian government arising out of the controversy concerning allegations of R.C.M.P. wrong-doing.

The slander action was initiated last winter by Ross Dowson, the executive secretary of the League for Socialist Action, an organization declared "subversive" by the R.C.M.P. and named as a main reason for the R.C.M.P. investigation of the NDP-Waffle in the early 1970s.

Mr. Dowson's counsel, Harry Kopyto, announced that, "While we still await final confirmation from government lawyers that the Deputy Minister of Justice will be produced for pre-trial hearings, information we have obtained has led us to conclude that this individual is most knowledgeable about the NDP-Waffle investigation by the R.C.M.P. and that the investigation was directed by individuals at the ministerial and cabinet level with full knowledge and control over R.C.M.P. activities within the NDP.

"We have already obtained independent confirmation that the defence of the suit is being conducted by politicians who appreciate that their pleas of ignorance concerning R.C.M.P. wrong-doings are likely to be contradicted as the full facts of the R.C.M.P. investigation come forth through pre-trial hearings scheduled to commence October 11th."

In another development, four prominent U.S. citizens have expressed support for the slander action of Mr. Dowson, who is currently vice-president of the Rosedale NDP in Toronto.

In a statement signed by pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling, well-known author Jessica Mitford and Dr. Noam Chomsky, a world-renowned linguist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the four declared that, "We believe that the charge of subversion has been used and is being used to justify intervention in the internal affairs and the harassment of such legal organizations as the New Democratic Party and the organized labour movement and we further believe that such activities threaten to whittle away at the democratic right to dissent in Canada."

\*organizations listed for  
identification only

(over)

**SOCIALIST RIGHTS DEFENCE FUND  
PRESS RELEASE**

**AUGUST 4, 1978**

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In addition to international support, the suit has also won support from NDP Foreign Affairs critic Andrew Brewin and 50 other prominent Canadians (see list of supporters on letterhead).

Three Toronto lawyers, including a prominent feminist and a civil rights lawyer known for his work in the Black Community, have agreed to act as legal advisors to Ross Dowson's lawyer in the suit. The Law Society of Upper Canada has advised that their names cannot be divulged because of a potential infraction of the Law Society's restrictions against advertising.

For further information, contact the Socialist Rights Defence Fund at 466-1307 or 366-2059.





# COMMISSION OF INQUIRY CONCERNING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

## NOTICE OF HEARINGS

By December 7, 1978 the Commission will have completed most of its public hearings "regarding the policies and procedures governing the activities of the R.C.M.P. in the discharge of its responsibility to protect the security of Canada . . . ." During January, 1978, the Commission held three hearings to receive briefs from the public. The commission has now scheduled further hearings at the times and places set out below for the purpose of receiving submissions from persons, groups and associations wishing to make their views known about what the laws of Canada should be in respect of the operations of the Security Service, what structure and organization it should have, what policies should apply to the relationship between elected officials and the Security Service, and about other important issues raised by the evidence already heard by the Commission. This will be the last opportunity for the public to make oral submissions to the Commission.

Any person, group or association wishing to make a submission at any of the hearings must first file a written brief with the Secretary of the Commission not later than one month prior to the date of the hearing at which it is intended to make the submission. Those who do not file their briefs within the prescribed time will not be able to make submissions orally at the hearing.

The hearings scheduled by the Commission are as follows:

Wednesday, December 13, 1978  
Thursday, December 14, 1978  
Tuesday, December 19, 1978  
Wednesday, December 20, 1978  
Tuesday, January 9, 1979  
Wednesday, January 10, 1979  
Thursday, January 11, 1979  
Friday, January 12, 1979  
Tuesday, January 23, 1979  
Wednesday, January 24, 1979  
Monday, January 29, 1979  
Wednesday, January 31, 1979  
Thursday, February 1, 1979  
Friday, February 2, 1979  
Monday, February 5, 1979  
Tuesday, February 6, 1979

Toronto  
Toronto  
Montreal  
Montreal  
Fredericton  
Halifax  
St. John's  
Charlottetown  
Ottawa  
Ottawa  
Winnipeg  
Regina  
Calgary  
Edmonton  
Victoria  
Vancouver

The times and locations of the hearings in each city will be advertised in the local newspapers several days before each hearing and those filing briefs will be advised directly.

Mr. Justice D. C. McDonald,  
Chairman of the Commission.  
D. S. Rickerd, Q.C., Commissioner  
Guy Gilbert, Q.C., Commissioner

Chief Counsel to the Commission:  
J. F. Howard, Q.C.

Secretary of the Commission:  
H. R. Johnson  
P.O. Box 1982  
Station "B"  
Ottawa, Ont.  
K1P 5R5

Tel: (613) 593-7821



October 23, 1978  
Ross Dowson, #2311  
40 Homewood Ave.,  
Toronto, M4Y 2K2  
961-4554 or 366 2059

Letters to the Editor  
Toronto Star

Peter Gzowski's column could have been put to much better use: to defence of the postal workers right to strike or ~~the~~ to the aid of Pierre Berton's and Robert Fulford's efforts behind the Civil Liberties Association's petition that Ottawa should prosecute RCMPers who have violated the civil rights of so many Canadians for so many years. In fact almost any cause, even stoop and scoop, would have been more worthy of his skill and energy than that of the Ward's Islanders.

"Does anybody really want the Islanders evicted," he asks? That a loaded way of putting it. Equally phoney is the statement that the list of those opposing the Islanders, so far as they know, stops after 20 names.

The islands belong to everybody as a public park. By what right do a small group continue to occupy some 30 acres of it for their own narrow purposes? The fact that some of them after having ~~been~~ long ago been given notice to vacate still have no other home would to some degree appear to be a matter of choice. If it is not, then let them apply for help from the housing authorities sustained by the taxpayers of this city.

Is nobody opposed to their continuing to impose themselves on one of the most beautiful sections of Toronto's park lands? Silence on this matter as one many others should never, never be taken to mean consent.

But then, if the Ward's Islanders were to go wouldn't the private yacht clubs be next

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Inquiry — CIA connection  
McDonald Counsel J F Howard had suggested that  
the RCMP opened mail on advice from foreign govt —  
— as an of civil liberties wants questions to be asked directly  
— for xample "Under what circumstances do you open  
mail?" — Let witness answer

Fox ruled out questions as to in what foreign govt service  
RCMP trains — Br in Ireland  
CIA in Cuba in Chile

Evidence of Victor Marchetti worked for CIA between 1965-69  
had been exec asst to CIA deputy director — Admiral Rufus Taylor  
No II man in CIA  
— CIA close ties with RCMP and its ~~military~~ security forces  
interviewer NOV 24 assigned to intercept phone call  
+ radio messages

boasted CIA trained RCMP  
Cdn always substituted for CIA if latter suffered loss  
— for instance in Cuba — kept eye on deserters & drift dodgers

Conservative MP for Leeds (Tory) questioned Govt (Nov 23) if it is govt  
policy to allow foreign power to interfere in handling of Cdn internal  
security — Former RCMP intelligence officer Leslie John Bennett  
when left force 1972 was questioned by CIA

Cdn Forces intelligence & security

trained by CIA in covert mail  
interception techniques



IN THE FEDERAL COURT OF CANADA

TRIAL DIVISION

B E T W E E N :

ROSS DOWSON

Plaintiff

- and -

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Defendant

REPLY AND JOINDER OF ISSUE  
TO THE FRESH STATEMENT OF DEFENCE  
OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

1. The Plaintiff joins issue on the defence of Her Majesty the Queen save in so far as the same consists of admissions.

2. The Defendant, through Her agents, servants and representatives, published and stated the words set out in the Statement of Claim with spite, <sup>express malice</sup> actual malice, improper and indirect motive, animus, and gross and unreasoning prejudice against the Plaintiff.

3. The Plaintiff relies and will rely at trial on the following particulars of the facts and matters from which the allegations contained in paragraph 2 above is to be inferred:

*Noa 27/8*

*read to  
have been  
known*



## Particulars

(a) The Defendant through Her agents and servants in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been carrying on a systematic campaign of electronic surveillance, mail openings, use of personal information, use of human sources, surveillance, various techniques to counter the political activities of the Plaintiff and his political associates, including acts of infiltration by agents provocateurs, acts of forgery, acts of entrapment, and numerous others acts and activities directed and designed and having the effect of limiting the political effectiveness and lawful activity of the Plaintiff and his political associates and organizations which he has been a member of.

(b) The Plaintiff alleges that the acts referred to in Paragraph (a) above have continued to the present.

(c) The New Democratic Party and the Waffle were the real targets of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation referred to in the Statement of Claim of the Plaintiff.

(d) The Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, stated at a press conference held in Ottawa on December 9th, 1977, words to the effect that individuals who share the political thinking of the Plaintiff are subject to security surveillance and interest. Similar statements were made by other government officials on or about the same time as this statement was made.

(e) The Plaintiff has no personal knowledge of any of the particulars aforementioned but will rely on such details as may emerge and arise upon the Examinations for Discovery herein.

(f) The Plaintiff further incorporates herein such further and other particulars as may arise upon the Examinations for Discovery herein.

(g) The Plaintiff further incorporates such other facts and information as the Plaintiff may discover, whether in documentary form or otherwise, at trial.

4. The Defendant through Her agents and servants published the said words knowing that they were false, alternatively indifferent and reckless whether they were true or false, and without the honest belief that the words which were published were true.

5. The Plaintiff denies that the occasion upon which the said words were spoken was an occasion of absolute privilege and puts the Defendant to strict proof thereof.

6. The Plaintiff alleges that the Defendant, through Her servants and agents in the Federal government and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, acted in an oppressive and arbitrary and unconstitutional manner in committing the slander alleged.

DELIVERED at Toronto, this 27th day of November, 1978,  
by HARRY KOPYTO, 121 Richmond Street, W., Toronto, Ontario, Solicitor for the Plaintiff.



Harry ~~Isaacs~~

do we have to mention  
everything that we want to  
expound upon then - at the  
trial

" Crown Pros — "Apparently Mr Buck  
doesn't appreciate that if those matters  
had been given in evidence, Gen. & Crown  
would have been in a position to supply  
evidence "

Harry should ask for the  
RCMP files by + on Warren Hart.

who admitted - signed an affidavit that he  
on RCMP request bugged former Solicitor General  
Allmand + NDP MP - Rodriguez

also his intervention on the left - Roxy Douglas  
and also Clauflour

[ We should consider getting  
him up here

MP Mackay released info<sup>he</sup> - GM Nov-30/78

$$\begin{array}{r} 10400 \\ 10400 \\ \hline 10400 \end{array}$$



# Building list of documents to be available to investigation

- \* On the LP — by Marx & Engels @ <sup>✓ means enclosed</sup> <sup>✓ Harry brought</sup> mimeo edition <sup>has</sup> April 1962
- \* Trotskyism & the NDP — reprint from Labor Challenge  
⑥ new edition printed no date 1977?  
RD speech to St George NDP May 17/72
- What the LSA is + what it stands for — pamphlet June 1961
- Organization & Character + Constitution of the LSA —  
contains document Our Organization, Character  
& Ideology May 1968 convention
- \* Canadian Democracy & the Struggle for Socialism  
report of Social Forum meeting May 9/58  
speech by RD
- \* The Coming Canadian Revolution — by RD — May June/67
- LSA/LSO 1971 Plenum — contains Fidler on Waffle
- LSA/LSO Internal discussion Bulletin 1970  
contains documents on CP orientation including  
1948 turn of CP to Labor Party & New Party Now NB 18 strategy
- LSA/LSO — IB No 8 Aug 1970 — Our Orientation to NDP — subsequently  
printed in pamphlet
- LSA/LSO 1970 convention documents — includes Eds of Revy  
Party in Canada



Ross Dowson  
for Meyer

# Index of Cdn Trot press (1956-63)

- 1962 — # 73 — Acorn Poem X is a moderate radical  
# 79 — RD from Brusselton Helsinki  
79 — RD from England
- 1957 — # 25 — Truth about SEL's attitude towards CCF  
Hastings Frontenac supplement
- 1958 #28 Dowson runs for SEL in Broadview  
asks CCF to leave seat open  
# 35 — Labor party - not Lib-Lab-bloc
- 1961 — 60 — on the New party  
66 — on foundation of NDP  
70 — 1961 — YCL hits BCNDP on Trudhymon  
71 — ban on Vanguard
- 1962 — # 78 — Mathieu calls in RCMP  
# 81 In + around NDP — RCMP probe of Left  
# 81 — Left exposures in West Coast NDP
- 1955 — SEL organized 1951 1-1  
1-7 — CCF news attacks Vanguard  
1-8 — Dowson SEL candidate mayor 1955-6  
1-9 — Defend Regina Manifesto
- 1956 1-10 — What Next — a new labor party
- 1957 16 — With eyes wide open Vanguard supports CCF  
34 — Dowson addresses Stanley Park  
35 — Hugh barred from Oxt CCF convention  
44 — Fisher wants Silverstone list  
48 — UE defeat Trot res on support of New party  
58 — Call for socialist caucus in New party  
60 — need for left caucus  
64 — I-SA formed  
67 — CP opposes NDP  
68 — Trudhymon attacked  
75 — The Socialists + the NDP



- # 81 - RCMP probe of left wing  
edit two
- # 84 - The shortest pol speech - Joe Rosenthal
- #  $\begin{matrix} 26+30 \\ 20 \end{matrix}$  19 44+70 - Sobell case
- #  $\begin{matrix} 35 \\ 38 \end{matrix}$  - Tate - suitcase case
- 48 - Perbenen gets citizenship after 10 years
- 65 - Fair Play on RCMP blockade
- 70 - Umlarians blast RCMP
- 82 - VII-10 - RCMP wing prof
- 1957 - II-2 SEL mayoralty vote
- # 40 - For a correct attitude to Cdn working class
- # 67 - CP attacks fundamental nature of NDP  
~~NDP~~
- 68 - Vern O. Williams evades RCMP
- 76 - Tribune attacks Trotskyism
- # 17 - Cdn ambassador suicides - witch hunt
- 84A - Liberals red smear NDP on NATO
- # 75 - 1962 - Sec + to NDP review by RD
- 1956 # 26 - Diego Rivera
- 83 - Kajushas unionists shot RCMP?
- 1-8 - RD mayor 1955-6

SEL - org - 2d II - Dawson mayor 1955

1-9 - Cross Canada tour

II - 1 - Dawson mayor - Secy Treasurer of SEL

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24 - Hastings - Frontenac - Dawson

28 - Broadview - candidate

32 - Second Trans Canada tour

36 - Dawson controller

42 - Cross Canada

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50 - ON Beach. leaflet -



56 - Sub Lourests

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59 - Toronto elections

64 - Wed 0.938 Teamsters

64 - CSA needed for New party

67 - Call off RCMP - greet Williams  
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75 - Trailblazers with Vanguard  
176-79

81 - SEL runs mayor 1962

Dec 21 - Harry leaving